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THE

“WAR OF EXTERMINATION.”

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28046

FELLOW CITIZENS OF CINCINNATI:—

During my absence at Columbus, in the month of February, a private letter of mine to Professor Mussey, of the Medical College of Ohio, written eighteen months before, was published by him, in some of the Cincinnati newspapers; and also posted up, (as I have been told) on our sign-posts. Since my return, I have heard it frequently referred to; and as late as Thursday evening last, it was read in a town meeting. The object of its publication, by Dr. Mussey, was to prevent the General Assembly from passing a law to admit the students and Professors of the Cincinnati College, to an equal participation with those of the Medical College of Ohio, in the Commercial Hospital and Lunatic Asylum, in this city; and the object in lately reading it, was to prevent our township Trustees, from carrying the new law into effect. *You* will be surprised to learn that I have suddenly grown into such importance, that one of my letters should constitute a sufficient reason, why our Trustees, should or should not execute a state law, and *I* am not less astonished at my new dignity. Nevertheless, such appears to be the fact; and feeling my responsibility, I solicit you to unite with me in a watchful care that the new Hospital law, if good for the public, shall not be nullified on my account. With this introduction, I shall proceed to lay before you, the history of my letter, and some of the matters to which it refers.

In the month of August, 1837, Professor Stowe of the Lane Theological Seminary, informed me, that his friend and former colleague, Dr. Mussey, of Dartmouth College, had been offered the chair of Surgery, in the Medical College of Ohio; and had written out for his opinion, on the propriety and policy of an acceptance. A few days afterwards, when I was at the house of Professor Stowe, he again brought up the subject, and said that Dr. Mussey was anxious to know something as to the probable permanency and prosperity of the Medical Department of the Cincinnati College. I understood him to say, “Dr. Mussey is desirous of having your opinions on this subject”—but, however this might have been, he distinctly requested me to give them to him, that he might transmit them to Dr. Mussey, and at the same time, placed in my hands, a late letter from that gentleman, containing numerous inquiries. I read it, and told him that I would immediately

comply with the request, for which he thanked me. In confirmation of these statements, I beg leave to transmit a short correspondence which I lately had with the reverend Professor.

*Dr. Drake to Professor Stowe.*

CINCINNATI, March 12, 1839.

DEAR SIR:—I will thank you to send me a copy of the paragraph of one of Dr. Mussey's letters to you, in which he desired you to consult me on the subject of his removal to Cincinnati. I do not recollect the date, but it was the letter which you handed me to read in your parlor, when at your house to see Mrs. Stowe, or one of the children, about the 12th or 14th of August, 1837.

Respectfully, your ob't. serv't.,

DAN. DRAKE.

To Prof. STOWE.

*Reply of Prof'r. Stowe to Dr. Drake.*

"LANE SEMINARY, March 12, 1839.

"DR. DRAKE,

"DEAR SIR:—I send you the entire letter to which you allude, to be perused by you, and returned safely to me again. I do this rather than copy a single paragraph, because you read the letter at the time, and wrote under the impression which the *whole* made.

The only other letter previous to September, 1837, in which Dr. Mussey mentions your name, or alludes to you in any way, is in the letter of July 23d, '37, in which the following paragraph occurs:—"Dr. Drake you think would favor my coming—I should think this would not be just so, inasmuch as it must be his interest to build up the reputation of Dr. Parker, who is the Professor of Surgery in his school."

It was these sentences in Dr. M's. letter, and the conversation I had with you in Dr. Beecher's house, on 4th street, at the beginning of my acquaintance with you, which induced me to consult you, and show you the enclosed letter, without any anticipation of what has since occurred.

Truly yours,

C. E. STOWE."

The letter to which reference is here made, was dated Hanover, N. H., July 31st, 1837, and relates entirely to Dr. Mussey's proposed acceptance, with that of two other persons. Its closing paragraph is as follows:

"What is the prospect of Dr. Drake's school, as it is here called? Dr. Parker, Professor of Surgery, is a popular man. Is it possible that the two schools can long sustain themselves distinct from each other. Dr. A. G. Smith,\* has lately expressed the opinion, that they

\*Of the Medical College of Ohio.



must amalgamate. *Can they do so?* Will not the new school at Louisville interfere with the three others? In fine, can four schools be sustained, so as to make it an object for Dr. Delamater, or myself, or both, of us to go to Cincinnati. Can the institutions of the west be regarded as in a state of stability like those of the east?"

I could not fail to perceive, from these inquiries and remarks, that Dr. Mussey had been led to suppose that the new school, to which I belonged, would not be permanent, and that it might, in some manner or degree, be amalgamated with the old; and I thought that in replying to his questions, submitted to me by his friend, my information should relate chiefly to those subjects, and my answer was framed accordingly. At first I told Professor Stowe, that I would hand *him* a written statement; but as he lived in the country, as I had the impression that Dr. Mussey and myself had belonged to the same class in the University of Pennsylvania, more than thirty years before; and as we had occasionally exchanged printed discourses, I determined to address my reply directly to himself, and after having written and sent it off, the first time I met Professor Stowe, I told him I had done so, and received his acknowledgements, and an expression of his gratification for my prompt compliance with his wishes. Such were the influences, objects and requests, under which I wrote to Dr. Mussey. The following is a copy of my letter:

*Dr. Drake to Dr. Mussey.*

"CINCINNATI, August 15, 1837.

DEAR SIR:—Our common friend Professor Stowe, has lately made several inquiries of me, at your request, concerning the probable stability of the Medical Department of the Cincinnati College; and both from him and others, I learn that you have been solicited to allow your name to be placed before the Board of Trustees of the Medical College of Ohio, for the chair of Surgery.

Three or four years ago, when I belonged to no institution, but felt an interest in the respectability and success of the latter, I urged your election into it; but the Board preferred Dr. Smith. Two years afterwards they undertook to reorganize the school, and offered to *restore* me to it; but some of the materials were too bad; and in conjunction with several other gentlemen, I took an appointment from the Trustees of the Cincinnati College.

I had founded the other institution from 1818 to 1822, was expelled from it, and it fell into incompetent hands—my object in wishing to see you in it, was, in part, to prepare the way for my own return. When I became hopeless of a reunion with it, I felt myself at liberty to co-operate in the formation of another school, for I was the first to commence Medical education in this city, and had, as we say in the west, a preemption right. Thus I am *now*, but prosecuting the object begun in the year 1818. My six colleagues are able, ambitious and resolute men, and we are bound to each other and to the object, by as many ties, as a natural fraternity—an earnest *esprit du corps*—

a reciprocal sentiment of personal friendship—a common debt—a joint interest in the edifice, library, apparatus, anatomical museum, hospital and Medical journal—a solemn covenant against resignations—and the aim at a common glory. We have already caused three of the Professors of the Medical College of Ohio to resign—Drs. Cross, Smith, and Eberle, and a fourth, Dr. Moorhead, has notified to the Board, that he will follow their example next spring. Thus, in fact, it is reduced to two, Drs. Cobb and Locke. The latter is now in England in company with President Bache of the Girard College, and his friends here, including Mr. Neville, the President of the Board of Trustees of the Medical College of Ohio, expect that he will be called to the Philadelphia institution, as soon as its President and he return from Europe. Dr. Cobb, as you know, belongs to the Bowdoin College, where he has spent the last five or six months; and has, within the last three days, been invited to Louisville, which invitation he acknowledges he would accept, if he knew that Dr. Locke would go there likewise, and he was under no engagement to Dr. Oliver. From these various facts, you can judge for yourself which of the two Cincinnati schools is most likely to be permanent. My letter is not confidential, and you may therefore, quote any or all of it to your friends and correspondents here, or elsewhere, for the purpose of satisfying yourself whether I have sought to exaggerate any thing. I was your class-mate in 1805-6, and do not wish that you should become my rival and opponent, now that we are both descending into the vale of years. At all events, I am determined that you shall not inadvertently place yourself in that position. I say then, in all frankness, that the war between the two medical schools of this city, is one of extermination. I have been treated ill (or sincerely think so) and have been made desperate. I am anxious to be preserved from every thing dishonorable, in the prosecution of the contest, but shall carry it on to a final triumph, or I am gathered to my fathers.

If you suppose, my dear sir, that this is mere grandiloquence, come out here and I will convince you that it is not; and others will soon show you, that they do not expect you to enlist under their banner, without putting on the armor of falsehood and calumny; the chief missiles with which they have sought to retain that of which I was plundered by their predecessors.

Most respectfully, your ob't. serv't.,

DAN. DRAKE."

To Prof. MUSSEY.

Now I have not understood that the truth of any portion of this letter, except a part of the initial sentence, has been called in question; but Dr. Mussey, his colleagues and dependents, assert that it was obtruded upon him—that I was a stranger, who had never corresponded with him—that he had not wished for my opinions, and that my giving them, was altogether gratuitous and most unexpected: still further, they find in the letter the declaration, that I had waged a war of extermination against the Medical College of Ohio, in which he had been ten-



dered an appointment, and that I was determined to prosecute it to a final triumph, in the destruction of that institution. Let us suppose, for argument's sake, that he took these views of the manner and matter of my letter at the time he received it, what, as a highminded gentleman, should have been his course? Either, I think, that of entire silence, or a letter of indignant rebuke. Could there be any other alternative? Every christian—every honorable man, will answer, *no other*. Well, what *was* his course? Why, he did observe a silence of nearly four months; during which, however, he maintained a correspondence with Professor Stowe, and his friends in this city, and had the most ample opportunity of learning, that the statement with which my letter opened, that I wrote at his request, in reply to questions put by Mr. Stowe, was false, and that the whole epistle was a tissue of gratuitous impertinence, malice and desperation, as it has since been characterised. What, then, should have been his feelings towards the author, and how, consistently, should he have written to the stranger, who had thus, presumptuously, sought to frighten and deceive him? I need not say what *should* have been his reply, but will proceed to show what it was:

*Dr. Mussey's answer to Dr. Drake.*

“FAIRFIELD, HERKIMER CO., N. Y., Dec. 9, '37.

DEAR SIR:—Be pleased to accept my sincere thanks for your letter received, I think, in September, and for two numbers of your journal, since. In relation to the principal topic of your letter, I may say, that I am not anxious to remove to the west. For some years, indeed, I have thought, that should an opportunity offer of securing to myself a pleasant location, and a respectable and useful sphere of professional exertion in a climate less severe than that of New Hampshire, I might be induced to embrace it, as better suited to my health, and especially to that of Mrs. Mussey.

With regard to the prospects arising from the present attitude of things in your city, I have had no means of judging other than what have been afforded by letters from gentlemen, who are, perhaps, more or less interested. It had occurred to me, that the existence of two medical schools in Cincinnati, might not be incompatible with a high degree of prosperity in both; indeed, it was a question with me, whether, if conducted with a spirit of high and honorable competition, they might not greatly promote each other's prosperity, and by spurring each other to effort, produce better and higher courses of instruction, and ultimately draw more than twice the number of students to your city, than would be induced to resort to a single institution. I had not supposed that a war of extermination between the existing institutions could be necessary to the interests of the profession, or of those employed in giving lectures at either school. It is fairly questionable, whether a solitary institution at Philadelphia, could have sustained itself as well as each of the existing schools has, in point of number of students the last two years.

The cases of Philadelphia and Cincinnati, may be far dissimilar; and, if not before, the view just taken, may be modified by the springing up of a new institution in Kentucky—I would not decide for the “far west,” but things look well on the map. Is not Cincinnati a better location for two schools, than will be found for the ensuing 20 years; and will not your flourishing city, for that period,\* afford better facilities for ripened courses of instruction to a full share of the multitude of young men from the regions around, and west of you, whose population must be annually increasing in the ratio that it would be difficult to estimate?

When I received your letter, I had committed myself to the Ohio Medical College, for a course of lectures, on terms which I thought might not probably be accepted; but the fact seems to have been otherwise, and I shall come out, as you advise me to come, *to look at things as they are*, if peradventure, I can obtain a correct view. Whatever may be the result of my visit, I can assure you, sir, that I have not the least disposition to do as you say, I shall be expected to do, if I come to your city, ‘buckle on the armor of calumny and falsehood.’

Among the objects of my visit, it will not be the least, to make the acquaintance of yourself—a gentleman whose reputation for many years, has echoed louder along the Atlantic coast, than that of any other man beyond the mountains.

Please to present my kind regards to your very gentlemanlike friend and colleague, Dr. Parker.

Very sincerely and respectfully,

Your obedient servant, .

R. D. MUSSEY,”

DR. D. DRAKE.

The receipt of this letter was followed some weeks after, by the arrival of Dr. Mussey, himself; and from that day, until he departed for the east, in the spring of 1838, he treated me with unvarying courtesy and respect. Now, up to that time, he had either not discovered, what he afterwards found in the letter, viz: a false statement of facts, and a temper the most ferocious, or else he wrote, and spoke in terms of studied and systematic hypocrisy. He knows which horn of the dilemma he should be hung upon;—for *myself*, I place him on the former, because the letter itself requires it. At what time, then, did he discover, or rather decide that the letter was atrocious? Why, at the very moment when his new colleagues required him to “buckle on the armor of calumny and falsehood,” according to the predictions of the letter itself; that is, when the petition of the students of the Cincinnati College, was before the General Assembly, praying that body to grant them, and their teachers, equal participation in a public State Hospital, enjoyed, up to that time, as a monopoly, by Dr. Mussey’s institution. And why was it *then* brought out? Clearly, to influence the action of the Legislature, and preserve the monopoly, from being broken down: to prevent the students of the Cincinnati College from walking the wards

of a Hospital, erected, and supported by taxes, imposed on the property of *their* fathers, not less than the fathers of the students, in Dr. Mussey's college. This, then, was "the high and honorable competition," which was to build up *both* schools, at a more rapid rate, than *one* would grow. To publish, from sinister motives, eighteen months after its date, a letter, giving him information solicited through a common friend, on a subject of deep and delicate importance to himself, for which he returned "his sincere thanks;" a letter from a man, for whom he cherished such profound admiration, that to make his acquaintance, was not the least of the motives, for a journey of a thousand miles in the depth of winter, is, according to Dr. Mussey, "high and honorable competition." Verily, Dr. Mussey is quite an original genius, in the "high and honorable."

Some of my friends have condemned the publication of my letter, as a *breach of confidence*. It was certainly not *designed for publication*; but had it been, I should have written it in the same terms precisely. I do not complain of Dr. Mussey's publishing it; and cannot but admire his *tact*, in sending it forth, when I was not in the city to make the statement which I am *now* making; and for the *purpose* of perpetuating a monopoly, which he well knew existed in no other city on earth, and which the state of Ohio *has* nearly dissolved, at a single touch, Dr. Mussey's "high and honorable competition," to the contrary notwithstanding.

We come now to the examination of the letter itself. I here deny at the outset, that it contains the declaration that either I, or my colleagues, had waged a war of extermination on the Medical College of Ohio, or that the triumph of its destruction was to be achieved. The letter was written in reply to Dr. Mussey's inquiries, as to the permanence of the new school, to which I belonged, which the other had sought to crush at its birth, and continued to assault; and the final triumph, was its successful establishment. I defy all just criticism to make any thing else out of its language. Indeed, Dr. Mussey and his coadjutors were well aware of this, and therefore, had to write commentaries upon it. Even interpretation, however, would not do; and in the spirit of "high and honorable competition," they proceeded to pervert the only paragraph, which they supposed could be made to act on the Legislature, in such a manner, as to secure a continuance of their monopoly, and the exclusion of our students—more numerous than their own—from a public hospital. My letter contained this sentence; "I say, then, in all frankness, that the war between the two schools, *is* one of extermination." Now, the Dean of the Medical College of Ohio, Dr. Shotwell, in a publication on the 8th of February, states, that in my letter, I had affirmed to Dr. Mussey, "that the war *I* had waged, was one of extermination." Thus, by absolute falsification, my letter, which simply announced the *existence* of a war, between the two schools, a fact of public notoriety, is made to declare that *I* had waged it. Did any man of honor, ever before, resort to such a barefaced perversion of a printed document, to maintain an odious monopoly? Who ever before, saw a student, unblushingly falsify the

plain language of his *own* preceptor, for the purpose of degrading him, in his absence, and that too, for selfish and sinister purposes? But the whole, is quite compatible with the principles of that "high and honorable competition," with which the professors of the Cincinnati College have had to grapple, throughout the war of extermination, which I shall now proceed to demonstrate, was waged against them in the very first week of their existence. First. On the 3d of July, 1835, William R. Morris, President, and Robert T. Lytle, Secretary *pro tem.* of the Board of Trustees of the Cincinnati College, announced, in Cincinnati newspapers, the organization of the Medical Department of that institution. Five days afterwards, to-wit: on the 8th of July, there appeared, over the signature of "Vindex," in the Cincinnati Whig, the first of a series of papers, against our institution; and they were continued through nineteen numbers. On the day on which the first number was issued, a gentleman, not myself, who felt aggrieved, called for the name of the author, and received the following reply:

"CINCINNATI, OHIO, July 8, 1835.

"The undersigned is the writer of the first number of a series of articles, over the signature of "Vindex," which appeared in the Whig and Intelligencer of this morning, and of course holds himself responsible for the remarks, made in that paper, and to be made in the subsequent numbers. If farther responsibility is required, Dr. Alban G. Smith, with whom the author has consulted and advised, authorises me to give his name.

RAPH'L. SEMMES."

Now, Dr. Smith was, at that time, Professor of Surgery in the Medical College of Ohio, and Mr. Semmes, a passed Midshipman of the Navy, then on furlough, a stranger in Cincinnati, was his wife's nephew, and lodged in the same boarding-house with him. It is true, that when a gentleman, after the publication of the numbers was completed, sent a note of inquiry to Professor Smith, he declined to say, whether he did or did not, hold himself responsible; but he never *denied* that his nephew had consulted and advised with him, and had been authorised to use his name. Moreover, Mr. Atlee, *one of the pupils of the College*, had the writings of "Vindex," published in a pamphlet form, as will appear from the following note of Maj. Conover, the editor of the Whig:

"SEPT'R. 26, 1835.

"DR. DRAKE:

DEAR SIR:—Your note is just received, and denying altogether your right to make the request therein contained, I have, nevertheless, no objection to satisfy your curiosity, as there is no secret in the matter.

The pamphlets were ordered by Samuel Yorke Atlee, Esq., and were printed for him. He has already paid me for part of its publication, and I am daily looking to him for the balance.

Respectfully, &c.,

JAMES F. CONOVER."



Now, it is not probable, that a large edition of a pamphlet of 42 closely printed, and broad octavo pages, would have been published, at his *own* expense, by a student of the Medical College of Ohio, for the benefit of his teachers; but if Mr. Atlee were thus disinterested, the pamphlet still emanated from the institution, as he, not less than Dr. Smith, was a part of it.

But still farther, on page 9, we find a long extract from the Faculty book of the College, dated on the 7th of March, 1822, which shows that the Faculty had thrown open their secret records, to the young midshipman, who, out of complaisance to his relative, had stood forward as their champion.

Having thus, as I conceive, incontestibly fixed the authorship of this pamphlet virtually and substantially upon professors and students of the Medical College of Ohio, I shall proceed to show, that it declared a war of extermination against the Medical Department of the Cincinnati College, which has been prosecuted in the same spirit, down to the present time.

In the first number, published as we have seen, just five days after that department was announced, we have the following sentence:

"It may be asked, why not give the Cincinnati College a *fair* trial? If both institutions can flourish, so much the better for the city? I answer, that its Faculty do not wish a fair trial themselves, and that nothing is farther from their intention, than a permanent competition with the Medical College of Ohio."

Again: On page 5, in the same first number, after speaking of the Professors of the Cincinnati College, the writer observes:

"It is only necessary for the people to *remove* these *incubi*, by the force of public disapprobation, from a situation to do harm, in order to insure the existence among them, of a flourishing medical school."

Here, then, are the evidences, of a war of *extermination* having been waged by the Medical College of Ohio, against the Cincinnati College, while in its earliest infancy. Its prosecution was in the temper in which it was declared. Throughout the pamphlet, I am spoken of as the projector and sustainer of the school, and the effort is, to destroy it by degrading me. My name occurs in the pamphlet 378 times! I will transcribe one of the paragraphs, page 35, in which the idea of our extermination is still preserved.

"The father or guardian who may hereafter send his son or ward to receive his diploma, at the hands of Dr. Drake, or to attend a course of lectures, in an institution, with which that gentleman is connected, will find it necessary, from the foregoing statement of facts, to add to the usual equipment of the student, a brace of pistols, or a Spanish knife, to serve him in the party feuds, which he will be destined to encounter. And if the student have the good fortune to escape being shot or stabbed, he will still run the risk of being caught under some huge fragment of the College, when Dr. Drake, Samson-like, shall bury himself beneath its ruins."

Second. The war of extermination was prosecuted against us, by the public declaration, that our charter was invalid. Judge Burnet,



who had for many years been President of the Board of Trustees of the Medical College of Ohio, made this assertion, and continues to make it. On the 13th of December, 1836, these reports had assumed such shape and magnitude, that the Trustees of our College thought it advisable to act upon them; and this they did, by submitting a resolution of inquiry to the Law Faculty of the College, John C. Wright, Timothy Walker, Jos. S. Benham, and Edward D. Mansfield, Esqrs. As the preamble and resolution contains the evidence of the Board, that we had been assailed in the manner here pointed out, I shall transcribe it:

"Whereas, the Trustees of the Cincinnati College, have been repeatedly informed that certain persons have circulated among students of Law and Medicine, the assertion that the charter of this institution (expressly conferring the powers usually exercised by any other College or University in the Union), does not authorise the establishment of Law or Medical Schools or Departments; and whereas, such misrepresentations are calculated to injure or retard the prosperity of the College; *therefore*," etc.

To the unanimous opinion of the Law Faculty, in favor of the perfect validity of the charter, it was still thought necessary to add the opinions of other jurists, and after 28 additional members of the Hamilton county bar, had subscribed their concurrence, it was published, as a preservative against our extermination.

Third. The Charter of the Cincinnati College, requires its Trustees to be elected annually, by the shareholders, that is, those who erected the edifice. From the hour in which the Medical Department was announced in the summer of 1835, it was said, on the authority of Judge Burnet, and other early contributors to the Cincinnati College, who were, or had been Trustees of the Medical College of Ohio, that at the next annual election of the Cincinnati College Trustees, March, 1836, a new Board would be put in, who would dissolve its Medical Department. This kept many students, who had come to Cincinnati to attend our schools, in its first session, from entering it; some of whom, unwilling to join the Medical College of Ohio, went to Lexington.

That the predictions to which I have referred, were on authority, the election day in the ensuing March, sufficiently demonstrated. When the hour arrived, Judge Burnet, who had not often before attended an election for several years, as the College had been suspended in all its departments, appeared in the Hall of the Institution, surrounded by the friends of the Medical College of Ohio. Contrary to all usage, he made a public speech to the shareholders, exhorting them so to vote, as to destroy the new department of their own institution, printed tickets were distributed, on which were the names of a *majority of the Trustees of the Medical College of Ohio*, including the President and Secretary of the Board; and, supplied with a large number of proxies, (one of which was in the hand-writing of Professor Moorhead, of the Medical College of Ohio, but signed by another person), he proceeded to vote. The ticket intended to destroy us, was lost, by

eight votes to one, and *this* mode of exterminating us was not again tried.

Fourth. When our school was about to go into operation, we applied officially to the Township Trustees, to sell tickets of admission into the Hospital, to our pupils, where they could see the practice, and hear the clinical instruction of the professors of the other school; a request which said Trustees, under the charters of both the College and Hospital, were at perfect liberty to grant; and the granting of which, would, by this time, have thrown nearly two thousand dollars into the treasury of the Hospital; but our application was opposed by the professors of the Medical College of Ohio, and of course refused by the Township Trustees, who thus sacrificed the interests of the people to that of the professors; their oaths of office to the contrary notwithstanding.

Fifth. For the two first years after our school went into operation, the trustees, professors and pupils of the Medical College of Ohio, publicly declared, that the other schools of the United States, would not recognise ours; and this means of exterminating us, was not abandoned, till we obtained and published official letters of recognition, from the institutions of Boston, New Haven, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Virginia and South Carolina.

Sixth. Finding that we could not procure admission for our pupils, into the Commercial Hospital and Lunatic Asylum of Ohio, (we never asked it for ourselves; as the state had given the medical attendance on it, to the other school, before ours was organised), we determined to establish a private hospital for the benefit of our own pupils. At that time, a Board of Commissioners was engaged in locating Marine, or Watermen's Hospitals in different parts of the west, to be supported by the General Government; but the Commissioners did not visit Cincinnati. It occurred to our Faculty, that, as the sick watermen, belonging to steam-boats arriving and departing from the port of Cincinnati, were numerous, a contract might be made, with the Secretary of the Treasurer, who manages the seaman's fund, by which said watermen should be received into a suitable house, and made the germ of a future marine hospital. These watermen had, up to that time, been provided for by the Surveyor of the port, at his discretion; and were then accommodated in the Commercial Hospital of Ohio, at two dollars and fifty cents a week for each; although the Trustees of said Hospital have lately protested to the General Assembly against the introduction of poor persons of Ohio, afflicted with diseases of the eye, from the want of apartments. A correspondence was opened with the Secretary of the Treasury, which eventuated in a contract for an indefinite time. We immediately rented for five years, at four hundred dollars per annum, a capacious house, across the street from our College Edifice, and fitted it up, not only for the reception of this class of patients, but for strangers ill in Cincinnati, for steam-boat passengers, sick or wounded, and for the patients of the Cincinnati Eye Infirmary. Immediately, it had such a number of patients, that we sold tickets of admission at five dollars each, to our pupils, and they found it, though limited in comparison with the Hospital of the state, a valuable school

of practical medicine. We now found ourselves independent of that Hospital, for clinical advantages for our students, and supposed that all difficulties on this point, were at an end. In this, however, we were disappointed, for in a few weeks afterwards, the Faculty and Trustees of the Medical College of Ohio, in their annual report to the Legislature, December, 1836, gravely presented to that honorable body, our arrangement with the Secretary of the Treasury, as a fit subject of complaint; and at the end of the first year, we found the marines withdrawn from us. We have procured copies from the Treasury department, of the various memorials sent on against us; a good proportion of which, are those of the Trustees of the Medical College of Ohio, and gentlemen who *had* been Trustees, the Faculty of the Medical College of Ohio, the acting Township Trustees, Messrs. Crossman, Fobes and Lewis, and the Trustees of some preceding years. Thus, by the efforts of the Medical College of Ohio and the Trustees of Cincinnati township, the watermen were permanently kept from us; not because there was any deficiency of patients for clinical instruction in the Commercial Hospital and Lunatic Asylum of Ohio, in which they were placed, for the number of its inmates was greater than the number of pupils in the College, according to the official returns; but because said watermen made the basis of a hospital for *our* pupils, and tended to stay the hand of extermination that had been raised against us.

I say nothing of the numerous and incontestible evidences of a faithful discharge of our duty, sent on to the treasury department, because my object is merely to show the efforts made by the other school and its friends, to break up our hospital—in the very midst of which, one of the township Trustees, Mr. Crossman, declared that they did not want the watermen in their establishment.

The Secretary of the Treasury did not order the Surveyor of the port to remove them from us, but only restored the discretion which by our contract, had been taken from the latter officer. In this exercise of *his* discretion, Mr. Punshon undoubtedly acted in conformity with the wishes of his employer, the Rev. Wm. Burke, long a distinguished Trustee of the Medical College of Ohio. Of the strong and vigilant opposition of this gentleman to our school, no one can be ignorant, who has attended the public meetings in which the application of our pupils to the Legislature, was opposed, and listened to the exciting and energetic speeches of that gentleman, against equal rights. If Mr. Punshon has lost the office of Surveyor of the Port, by his course in this business, he can console himself with the remembrance, that at the first meeting ever held in the city, to resist our memorial to the General Assembly, he was nominated a presiding officer. His services to the college could not have been repaid in a more delicate manner.

From the government we received for watermen during the the year, about 500 dollars—from our students, although the limited extent of our hospital forbid the usual charge for admission, about 200 dollars more; which, with such sums, from the private purses of the



Professors, as they could afford to advance, met the expenses of the whole establishment, including the Eye Infirmary; most of the patients in which, were beneficiaries. The loss of the watermen, was followed of course, by the loss of the income from pupils, for the number of our patients was too small to warrant our selling hospital tickets; and consequently, our revenues for the support of the Eye Infirmary, were dried up. We, however, kept the establishment open, for more than a twelve-month afterwards, giving our students gratuitous admission, and sustaining its expenses from our ticket money as Professors; but finding the expense, too much to be borne, it was closed at the beginning of February, last, and thus, the pupils of our College, and the patients of the Cincinnati Eye Infirmary, (the latter chiefly poor persons of Ohio) were at once shut out from the benefits of instruction and cure, which it was fondly hoped, had been permanently created for them, without calling on our friends, society, or the state.

The Medical Professors of the Cincinnati College, possess documentary testimony, to support the complaints made in this paper, against the Trustees and Faculty of the Medical College of Ohio, and the Trustees of Cincinnati Township, which they will with pleasure, submit to the inspection of their fellow citizens. I may add, that other instances of aggression upon us, might be cited, among which I will now mention that, a few weeks since the Township Trustees, employed an agent to visit Columbus, and oppose the bill of equal rights; although its provisions were intended to benefit the Hospital, over which they presided not less than the Cincinnati College, while they would have done no other harm to the Medical College of Ohio, than that of dividing the monopoly, long enjoyed by the latter, between her, and her younger sister.

It was in the midst of these long continued, and tireless efforts of our rival institution, to break us up, that I was called upon by a friend of Dr. Mussey, to give him information, for Dr. Mussey's use, as to the stability and prospects of our school. This I endeavored to do in the frank, but firm and fearless voice, which must issue from every new institution, when assaulted day after day, by an older school—heated into pride by intoxicating draughts from the Treasury of a confiding state, and inflamed into consequence by the fuel of a legal monopoly. That I should, under such circumstances, as surrounded us, have said to Dr. Mussey, that a war of extermination existed, was but to speak the truth; that I should have declared that I had been treated ill, and rendered desperate, was but to express the natural effect which the conduct of others had brought upon me; that I should cherish the hope of being kept from every dishonorable action was due to myself; and that I should be resolved to prosecute our enterprise to triumph or death, was due to the object itself.

It was in the prosecution of this object, that two of my respected colleagues and myself, were induced to visit Columbus, and appear before the General Assembly, as respectful petitioners, for our admission into the public state hospital, on equal terms with the Professors and pupils of the other school. For this we have been

assailed anew, and treated as though we had no right even to petition. Our opponents seem to have strangely forgotten that if they had exclusive vested rights in the hospital, the courts of justice would protect them, even against the state itself—if they had not, and enjoyed only legal rights, that we committed no offence in asking, nor would the state in a division of the hospital advantages between the two schools. They should rather have rejoiced, that the call for a division, had been deferred for so many years, than to have been fretted that it was made at last.

As to myself, I marched to Columbus, to the tune of *auld lang syne*, for I had drawn up and obtained the charter of the Medical College of Ohio itself, just twenty years before; and two years afterwards, I wrote, and, on personal application, for a month, obtained the passage of the charter for the Hospital and Asylum. Its going into operation depended on an acceptance by the Township Trustees. This acceptance was resisted by the enemies of the College, and one who now holds a Professorship, although, to this hour, an unnaturalized foreigner, and threatening to return to Europe for permanent residence, was among the number who made public speeches against the acceptance of the bounty of the state; the newspaper press was opened against the law and myself personally; a loud clamor was raised, and the whole object might have been lost, if I had not drawn up a bond to the Trustees, with a penalty of twenty thousand dollars, and got nineteen of my friends to sign it, as securities, that no additional expense or damage, should ever accrue to the Township, from an acceptance of what, has already thrown nearly seventy thousand dollars into its Treasury. That bond is still in the archives of the township, and valid against me. The next year after the law was enacted, and when I supposed myself permanently established as a pioneer teacher of my profession, I was expelled both from the College and Hospital, and they passed into the hands of my enemies, and afterwards into those of persons who, with but few exceptions, were not in the state of Ohio, when those institutions were founded.

In 1835, thirteen years after my expulsion, I was called, with several able and talented men, to a place in the new Medical Department of the Cincinnati College. Its charter had been granted in the same week with that of the other College, its Trustees were among the most distinguished of our citizens, I had drawn up its original articles of association, before a charter was obtained, twenty two-years previously, and had labored for 7 years in its board of Trustees; I felt therefore, that I had a *right* to enter it as a medical Professor; that, as a citizen of Ohio, and the first who ever taught medicine publicly in the state, I had a *right* to resume the teachings, in which I had been violently interrupted, *and I did so*. To say that this was done for the purpose of breaking up the other, and not for the sake of the object itself, is too absurd to be tolerated. To say that it was likely to injure that school, *if* it should be conducted with energy, and enterprise, is to declare against all experience, not less than the powerful reasonings of



Dr. Mussey himself, in his letter on the 5th page of this address, which I commend to all the enemies of the new school.

In recommending the vocation of a professional school-master, I sought not to be placed in the situation from which I had been, without charges or trial, dismissed. I asked for nothing which I had previously earned—nothing which was then given by the state to that College, in pursuance of early applications, which I had myself made; but with my resolute colleagues, I left every thing to those who then possessed it.

We disentombed the old Cincinnati College edifice from its own ruins—with the aid of our fellow citizens we repaired and refitted it, furnished its apartments with apparatus and books, sent one of our body to Europe, for such *materiel* of instruction, as this country could not supply, and collected around us, such students of medicine of Ohio and the west, as thought us worthy of being made their teachers.

The first session we augmented the number of pupils in Cincinnati, seventy-five per cent.; the second, we more than doubled it; and in the four sessions which have elapsed, without diminishing the number in attendance on the other school, which has in fact increased, we have added nearly as many more to the city. Thus we have inflicted no harm on that institution; unless, indeed, by causing some of its professors to resign, and seek new situations, and others to be appointed to their places, should be so considered. This effect I will not deny; but how was it brought about? The answer is, by convincing them (whether they ought or ought not to have been so convinced, is no part of my inquiry), that *our* lectures were superior to theirs, and that they could not, even when aided by a monopoly of the hospital, maintain themselves against us. We did not, however, lecture thus, beyond them, with *malice prepense*, but with the warm and resolute hearts, which belong to freemen; with the industry and earnestness of men who have to row their own boat over rough waters. Our way stretched forward by the side of that of our rival, we sought to advance upon it faster than she, but we did not leave it for hers; we stopped not to throw obstructions in *her* way; if we saw her rowers become weary and desert her, for other vessels, we found, in the fact, no moral reason why we should relax in *our* exertions; if, in the third year of our existence, we were ahead of her in the race, and in the fourth continued there, it was not, that *we* went *too fast*, but *she too slow*. This, then, is our offence, the crime for which we are arraigned before the public. We plead guilty to the charge, but give in palliation, that the destinies of Cincinnati repose on the enterprise of her citizens, and that they in whose hearts the fires of emulation burn most glowingly, must always contribute most to the common glory.

Respectfully, your fellow-citizen,

DAN. DRAKE, M. D.

*Prof. of Theor. and Prac. Med. Cincinnati College.*

CINCINNATI, MARCH 25, 1839.



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